

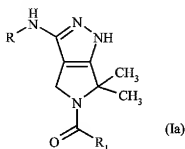
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-43. (Cancelled)

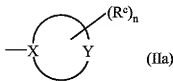
44. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (Ia)



wherein

R is a $-\text{COR}^a$ group, wherein R^a is hydrogen or an optionally substituted group selected from straight or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heterocyclyl and heterocyclylalkyl;

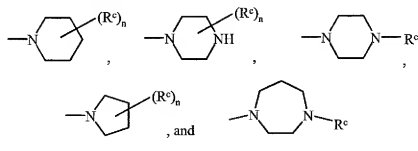
R_1 is a group of formula (IIa)



wherein the cycle represents a 5 to 7 membered heterocyclic ring, wherein X, directly linked to the rest of the molecule, represents a carbon or nitrogen atom; Y is a carbon, nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atom or it is an NH group, provided that at least one of X and Y is other than a carbon atom; R° is, independently from each other and in any one of the free positions of the heterocyclic ring of formula (IIa), an optionally substituted group selected from straight or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ cycloalkyl, aryl, arylalkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, amino, aminocarbonyl, carboxy, oxo ($=\text{O}$), alkoxy carbonyl, alkyl carbonyl or aryl carbonyl; and n is 0 or an integer from 1 to 4;

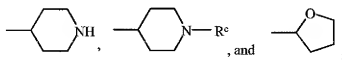
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

45. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (Ia) according to claim 44 wherein R_1 is a group of formula (IIa) selected from:



wherein R, n and R^c are as defined in claim 44.

46. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (Ia) according to claim 44 wherein R_1 is a group of formula (IIa) selected from:



wherein R, n and R^c are as defined in claim 44.

47. (Previously Presented) A compound, optionally in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, selected from the group consisting of:

N-{6,6-dimethyl-5-[(2R)-tetrahydrofuran-2-ylcarbonyl]-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-3-yl}-4-fluorobenzamide,

N-{6,6-dimethyl-5-[(2S)-tetrahydrofuran-2-ylcarbonyl]-1,4,5,6-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-3-yl}-4-fluorobenzamide,

N-{6,6-dimethyl-5-[(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)carbonyl]-2,4,5,6-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-3-yl}-cyclobutanebenzamide,

N-{6,6-dimethyl-5-[(1-methylpiperidin-4-yl)carbonyl]-2,4,5,6-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-3-yl}-4-fluorobenzamide,

N-{6,6-dimethyl-5-[(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)carbonyl]-2,4,5,6-tetrahydropyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-3-yl}-4-fluorobenzamide,

3-methyl-N-[1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-6,6-dimethyl-5-[(1-methyl-4-piperidinyl)carbonyl]pyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-3-yl]-butanamide, and

4-Chloro-N-[6,6-dimethyl-5-(4-pyrrolidin-1-yl-methyl-piperidine-1-carbonyl)-1,4,5,6-tetrahydro-pyrrolo[3,4-c]pyrazol-3-yl]-benzamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

48. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as defined in claim 44, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, carrier and/or diluent.

49.-50. (Cancelled)